IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the pending claims with the following amended claim set:

1. (Four Times Amended) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody and a cell selected from the group consisting of a multipotent neuronal progenitor (proNP) cell, a nonneuronal progenitor (NNP) cell and a committed neuronal progenitor (NP) cell, each of which comprise RET protein, wherein said monoclonal antibody is specifically bound to all or part of a sequence of said RET protein on said cell.

2. (Twice Amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein said sequence consists essentially of the extracellular domain of RET.

4. (Four Times Amended) A method for the enrichment of neural progenitor cells comprising RET protein, said method comprising:

a) combining a mixed population of cells comprising neural-crest derived cells comprising neural progenitor cells with an antibody that specifically binds to all of part of a sequence of said RET protein; and

b) selecting for RET positive cells, whereby the percentage of neural progenitor cells is enriched.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 4 wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of polyclonal antibody, monoclonal antibody, antibody fragments, and single chain antibody.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said antibody is fluorochrome conjugated.

7. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein said selecting with said fluorochrome conjugated antibody is by flow cytometry.

8. (Four Times Amended) The population according to Claim 16, wherein said cells are nonneuronal progenitor (NNP) cells.

12. (Amended) The population according to claim 16 wherein said neural progenitor cells are bound to an antibody that specifically binds to RET antigen.

13. (Twice Amended) The population according to claim 12 or 16 wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of polyclonal antibody, monoclonal antibody, antibody fragments, and single chain antibody.

14. (Amended) The population according to claim 13 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

15. (Thrice Amended) A method for the enrichment of neural progenitor cells, said method comprising:

a) combining a mixed population of cells comprising neural-crest derived cells comprising neural progenitor cells comprising RET protein with a monoclonal antibody that specifically binds to all of part of a sequence of said RET protein; and

b) selecting for RET positive cells, whereby the percentage of neural progenitor cells is enriched.

16. (Amended) A substantially pure population of neural crest derived neural progenitor cells comprising RET protein prepared using antibody binding to RET protein, where said cells are proneuronal progenitor (proNP) cells, neuronal progenitor (NP) cells and/or nonneuronal progenitor (NNP) cells.